

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, claims 2, 7, 9, and 10, which have been indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 11-14, respectively. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to improve their form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art, and new claims 15-21 have been added for more completely covering applicant's invention.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8 have been rejected as being obvious over Wahlin in view of Gammons, and reconsideration of such rejection is respectfully requested. Applicant's invention has particular utility in connection with spraying systems that discharge flat spray patterns, and particularly spraying systems that produce flat asymmetrically distributed liquid discharge patterns. As set forth in Applicant's specification, when such spraying systems are used in coating applications, it is often necessary that the spray nozzle be precisely oriented relative to the items to be coated to ensure efficient use of costly coating compositions. This can be particularly critical when spraying asymmetrical liquid spray patterns.

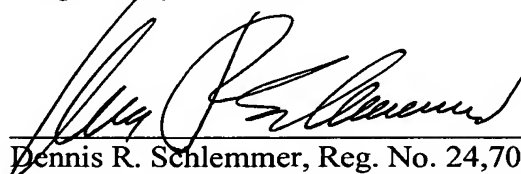
As an important feature of the invention, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 19, a spray nozzle is provided in which the spray tip has a discharge orifice configured to produce a flat spray discharge pattern and a nozzle body has an alignment notch or opening extending into said nozzle body in predetermined relation to the discharge orifice for providing an external visual observation to a user of the spray nozzle of the orientation of a flat spray pattern to be discharged from the spray nozzle during usage. In a preferred embodiment, the discharge orifice is formed by an elongated slot across the end of the spray tip and the alignment notch is located in aligned relation to an elongated end of the cross slot. Pursuant to a further aspect of the invention, as set forth in independent claim 8, the spray nozzle is usable with a nozzle body or spray gun having a locating pin on a discharge end thereof, and the spray nozzle is mountable on the nozzle body or spray gun with the locating pin extending into the alignment notch for again providing a visual observation to a user of the spray gun of the orientation of the flat spray pattern to be discharged from the spray nozzle during usage of the spray gun.

In contrast, Applicant's prior Wahlin patent provides no suggestion of the claimed alignment features. Gammons, on the other hand, relates to a spray gun in which a locating pin orients the spray nozzle for aligning internal fluid passages of the spray gun and nozzle.

Gammon does not relate to a spray gun that produces a flat or asymmetrical pattern and in which an external notch is located in predetermined orientation to the discharge orifice for providing an external visual observation to a user of the spray gun of the orientation of a flat or asymmetrical discharging spray pattern to be discharged from the spray gun during usage. From the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1, 8, and 19 as now presented all are directed to features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Since the remaining claims in issue all are dependent upon claims 1, 8 and 19 for similar reasons they are believed to distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectively requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at his direct number (312) 616-5640.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis R. Schlemmer, Reg. No. 24,703
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: December 8, 2005

m:\doc\pat\drs\225348\225348-amd-1.doc